

## Public Awareness & Damage Prevention

### PARTNERS IN PIPELINE SAFETY

America's pipeline industry maintains an enviable record of safety and reliability. Pipelines are by far the safest means of transportation today. The purpose of our pipeline is to provide safe, dependable, natural gas to your gas burning appliances 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, despite strict federal oversight and the conscientious efforts of companies like Sperry Utility Services Authority, hazards do exist and emergencies, though infrequent, can occur. Statistics show that the majority of pipeline damage is caused by third parties (construction contractors, property owners, excavators, etc.) digging near buried pipelines. Damage to a pipeline, such as scratches, gouges, creases, dents, and the cutting of tracer wire or tracer tape installed along with polyethylene plastic should be reported to Sperry Utility Services Authority. Third-party damage can be prevented by using a local excavation notification system known as OKIE One-Call and it's **FREE!**

In Oklahoma, the law requires anyone planning to dig or excavate near an underground pipeline to notify OKIE One-Call Center prior to beginning excavation activities. Notice shall be given no less than forty-eight (48) hours, excluding the date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the commencement of the excavation or demolition.

The OKIE One-Call center will notify member utilities that operate buried facilities in the area. A utility representative will determine if the project is near underground facilities and dispatch someone to the work site to clearly mark the route and location of buried cables and/or pipelines. Call 811 or 1-800-522-6543 and remember it's **FREE!**

## Sperry Utility Services Authority

918-288-7056 ext. 3

For additional information regarding pipeline safety or **Sperry Utility Services Authority**, call 918-288-7056, ext. 3

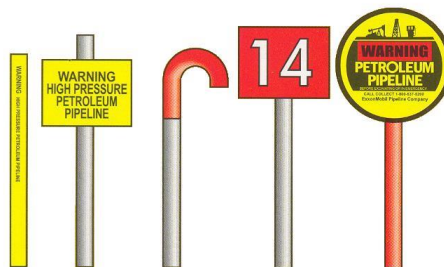
or write to us @

P.O. Box 609  
Sperry, OK 74073

Or visit our website at:  
[SperryOK.gov](http://SperryOK.gov)



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



### PIPELINE MARKERS

For public-safety reasons, most pipelines are buried several feet underground. To make pipelines easier to locate and identify, Sperry Utility Services Authority installs markers near roads and highways, at railroad and river crossings, above ground piping and at other locations along our rights of way. These markers show a pipeline's **approximate** location and provide emergency-contact telephone numbers and product transported. Not all buried lines have markers. Therefore, prior to performing excavating activities as simple as planting a tree, installation of landscaping, building a fence, installing a swimming pool or installation of a mailbox, contact OKIE One-Call at 811 or 1-800-522-6543.

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Sperry Utility Services Authority recognizes that **Safety, Health and Environmental Stewardship** are every employee's responsibility. Protection of human safety and health and the environment will come first, no matter how urgent the job, project, or commercial interest. Our goal and commitment is to use superior standards and policies for the benefit of everyone who is a part of our operations or lives in the communities in which we operate. These principles are the foundation of our safety and environmental policies at Sperry Utility Services Authority.

**PHMSA guidelines require Sperry Utility Services Authority to make you aware of certain recommendations regarding your underground natural gas piping. Sperry Utility Services Authority does not maintain the gas piping past the customers meter. Piping beyond the meter is the responsibility of the consumer. Buried customer piping may be subject to corrosion and/or leakage. Your buried piping should be checked periodically to ensure safe operation. You are advised to contact a licensed plumber or contractor to assist you in locating and inspecting your buried gas piping. Should an unsafe condition occur, repairs should be made immediately.**

### Information for Emergency Officials

**Secure the area around the leak.**

**Take steps to prevent ignition of a suspected leak.**

**Contact Sperry Utility Services Authority at 918-288-7056 ext. 3**

# PUBLIC AWARENESS & DAMAGE AWARENESS

## PIPELINE SAFETY IS BUILT IN

PHMSA(Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration) imposes rigorous standards for pipeline design, construction, maintenance, testing and operation. Sperry Utility Services Authority policies and procedures are designed to meet and, in most cases, exceed these standards. Our commitment to safety begins before a pipeline is built or expanded. We build safety into our system by:

- carefully researching and planning the safe construction of each project;
- using pipe that is inspected and tested at the factory to comply with both federal and industry standards;
- providing steel pipe with a coating and other measures that protect it from external corrosion, the use corrosive resistant polyethylene plastic
- inspecting the integrity of the pipe during construction;
- testing the finished pipeline at pressures higher than normal operating pressure before it's placed into service.

## SAFETY IS MAINTAINED DURING OPERATION

Once a pipeline is built, tested and placed in service, Sperry Utility Services Authority controls and monitors the safety of its system in several ways, including: routinely patrolling our pipeline route on the ground to inspect for leakage and identify potential problems and assist in preventing third-party excavation damage. Other maintenance of facilities including:

- over-pressure protection devices inspections
- cathodic protection inspection (a means of adding negative DC current to steel pipelines to slow corrosion)
- advising periodically, state and local emergency officials to review accident-prevention and emergency-response procedures
- posting markers with emergency telephone numbers along our rights of way, at highway, railroad crossings to inform the public of an buried pipeline in the area or an above ground piping

## NATURAL GAS LEAKS: RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE

Natural gas pipeline leaks or failures are rare, but an informed public can help prevent emergencies and minimize potential damage or injury in the unlikely event of an accident by knowing how to recognize and report pipeline problems.

### HOW TO IDENTIFY A LEAK

The following signs may indicate a natural gas pipeline leak or failure:

**SIGHT—A dense fog, mist, or white cloud. Bubbling in water and creeks or blowing dust and discolored or dying vegetation.**

**SMELL—Natural Gas is naturally odorless, so a rotten egg odor is added to aid in leak detection.**

**SOUND—Whistling, hissing, or roaring noise.**

### *What NOT to do...*

**DO NOT touch, breathe, or make contact with the leak.**

**DO NOT light a match, turn on or off light switches, use a home phone or cell phone or do anything that may create a spark.**

**DO NOT attempt to extinguish any natural gas fire.**

**DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.**

### **What to DO...**

**DO** leave the home, building or area of any suspected leak.

**DO** call Sperry Utility Services Authority or 911 once safely out of the area.

**DO** Warn others to stay out of the area

### **What Sperry Utility Services Authority does in the event of a leak**

Although rare, pipeline incidents do occur and can be explosive under the right conditions. In order to prepare for the event of a leak, Sperry Utility Services Authority regularly plans, trains and communicates with local emergency personnel as so what type of incidents may occur on our gas distribution system. Upon notification of a leak, Sperry Utility Services Authority will dispatch trained operating personnel to the leak sight, investigate and assist emergency personnel in order to protect the public.